

Leslie Burger

Leslie Burger has directed the Princeton Public Library since 1999. For much of the last five years, Leslie planned and funded the new 62,000 square foot Princeton Public Library, which opened to great community excitement in April 2004. After decades of bickering and inactivity, she built partnerships with civic and community leaders and convinced donors to contribute \$21 million to the library's capital and endowment campaigns. Leslie raised the profile of the library by challenging her community's notion of what a public library is all about and redefining what the public library means for local residents.

In 1991, Leslie also founded her consulting firm, Library Development Solutions. In her consulting practice, Leslie has guided more than 100 urban, suburban, and rural public libraries, academic and special libraries, state libraries, and single and multi-type library cooperatives across the US in strategic planning, space needs assessments, evaluation, and program implementation. Among her clients are the Reader's Digest Foundation, New York University Libraries, NY Comprehensive Research Libraries Group, East Orange (NJ) Public Library, Flint and Genesee (MI) District Libraries, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (MI), Palm Beach County Library System (FL), the Darien Public Library (CT), The Office of Commonwealth Libraries (PA), the Council on Foreign Relations (NY), SOLINET (GA), SEFLIN (FL), the Florida Library Association, The Live Oak Public Libraries (GA) and Rangeview Library District (CO).

Before joining the Princeton Public Library, Leslie served as a development consultant at the New Jersey State Library where she worked on leadership and marketing initiatives on behalf of the state's libraries. She served as Executive Director of the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative, a multi-type library cooperative serving a three county area. She also worked at the Connecticut State Library as the LSTA Coordinator, Director of Planning and Research, and Director of Network Services. Her library career began at the Bridgeport (Ct.) Public Library when she was hired to develop a community information and referral service.

Recognized as an accomplished speaker, writer, and consultant, on staff development, planning and evaluation, organizational development and library futures, Leslie is also a sought after spokesperson in the media on issues related to the implementation of CIPA, the future of libraries, revitalizing downtown areas, and fundraising.

Leslie is the president-elect of the American Library Association. She will serve as ALA president beginning in July 2006 through June 2007. Leslie served as president of ALA's Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (1996-1997), the New Jersey Library Association (2001-2002), and the Connecticut Library Association (1982-83), and as an ALA Chapter Councilor. She was member of ALA's Better Salaries and Pay Equity Task Force and recently

debated the need for better library salaries in American Libraries. (January 2003). Today, Leslie serves on the ALA APA Pay Equity Committee and the ALA Council. She recently completed a two year term as chair of the ALA Awards Committee.

Leslie attended library school at the University of Maryland in College Park and also has a master's degree in organizational behavior from the University of Hartford.

She received the New York Times Librarian Award for 2004 and will be honored as the University of Maryland's CLIS Alumna of the Year.

Leslie lives with her husband Alan and three children, Jessica, Sarah and Benjamin, in Princeton Junction, NJ. In her free time she loves to read (surprise!), garden, travel, cook, and entertain friends and family.